How to become a Dragon

- EPISODE 17 -

THE NAKDONG
RIVER DRAGON MIDTERMS
SHALL BEGIN NOW.

SUBMIT
YOUR PROJECTS
IN ORDER...
...AND YOU'LL
BE INFORMED OF
YOUR RESULTS WITHIN
THREE DAYS.

SO...
...WHO WANTS TO GO FIRST?
...
SILENCE
...
...
...

TAKE NOTE: ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF YOU WILL PASS THIS TEST.
AND IF TWO OF YOU RECEIVE THE SAME SCORE, ADDITIONAL POINTS WILL BE AWARDED TO THE INDIVIDUAL WHO TURNED IT IN FIRST.
OOH, I'LL GO!
I'M READY!

ME! ME!
I'LL GO FIRST!
PICK ME, DAMSEOL!
PLEASE!

EXCUSE ME.
I WAS THE FIRST ONE HERE...

...SO I'LL TURN MINE IN FIRST.
ANYONE WHO WANTS TO OBJECT SHOULD COME FORWARD RIGHT NOW.

LOOK, MIRI.
IT'S THE IMOOGI WHO'S EVEN MORE HOTHEADED THAN YOU ARE.

NO ONE'S GONNA OPPOSE HIM, THAT'S FOR SURE.

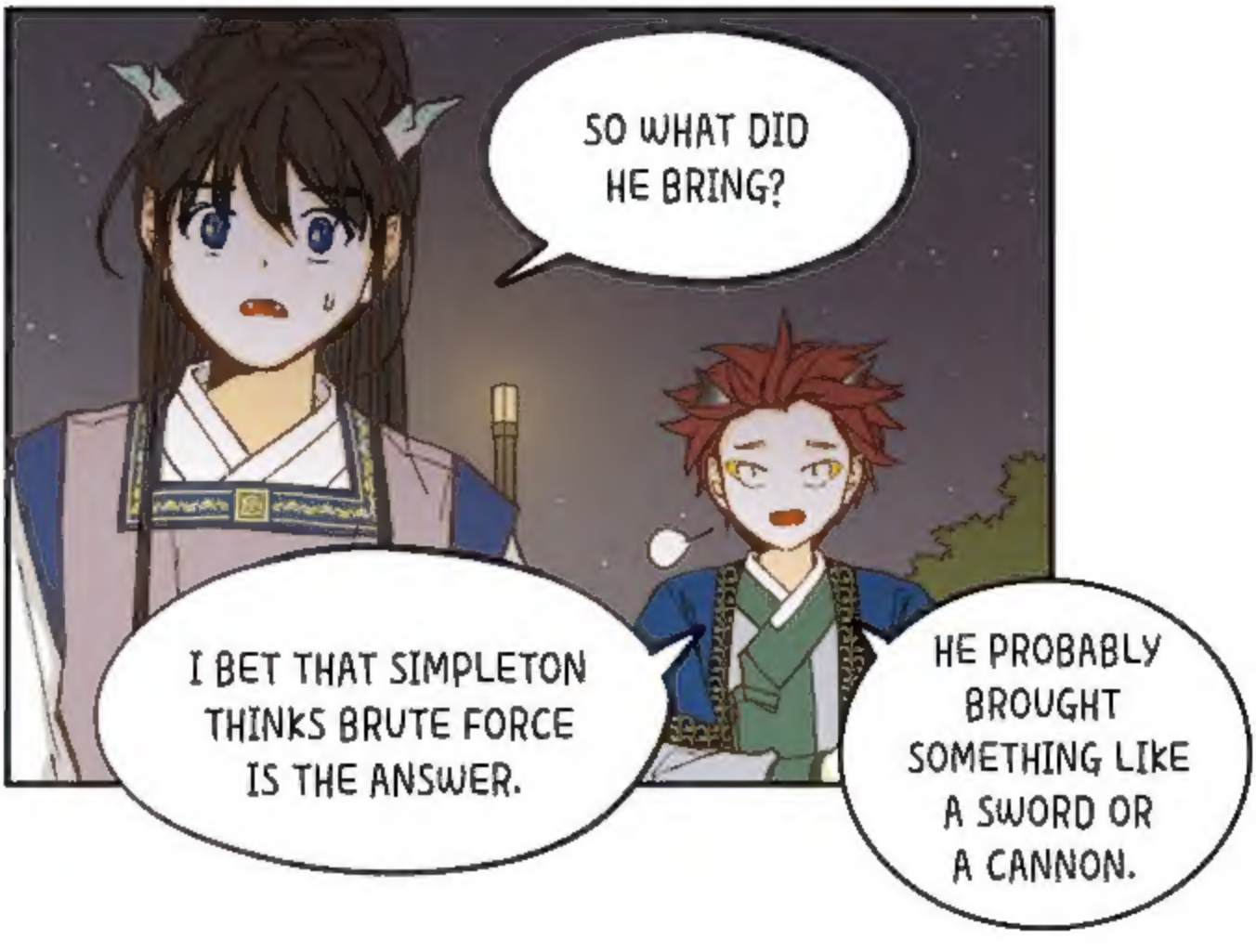
THAT'S KWANGCHEOL, ALL RIGHT.

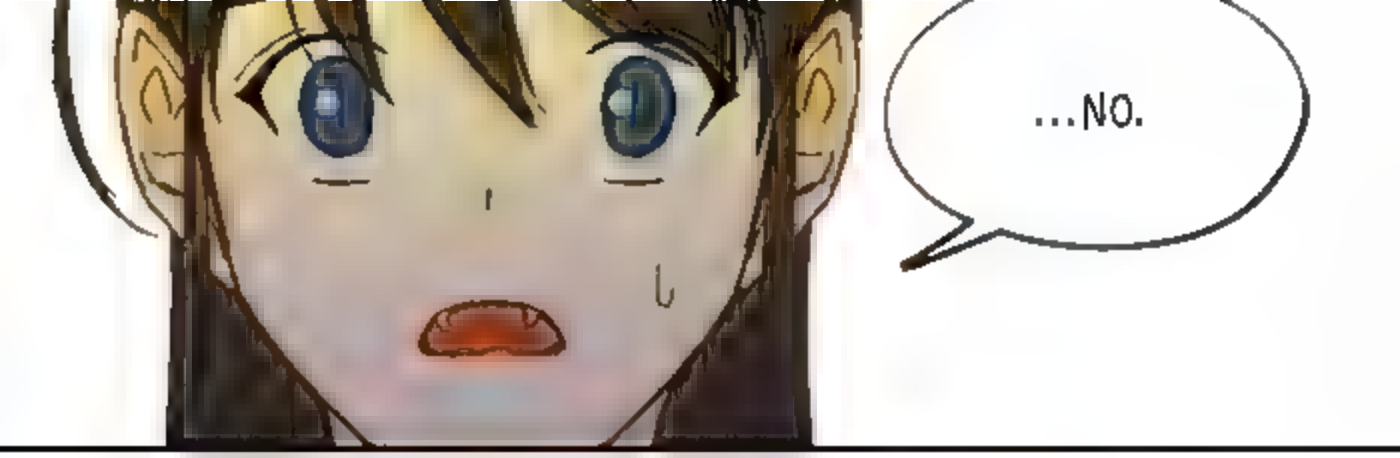
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN A LONG WHILE.
HE MUST'VE FINALLY SERVED THE ENTIRETY OF HIS SENTENCE.

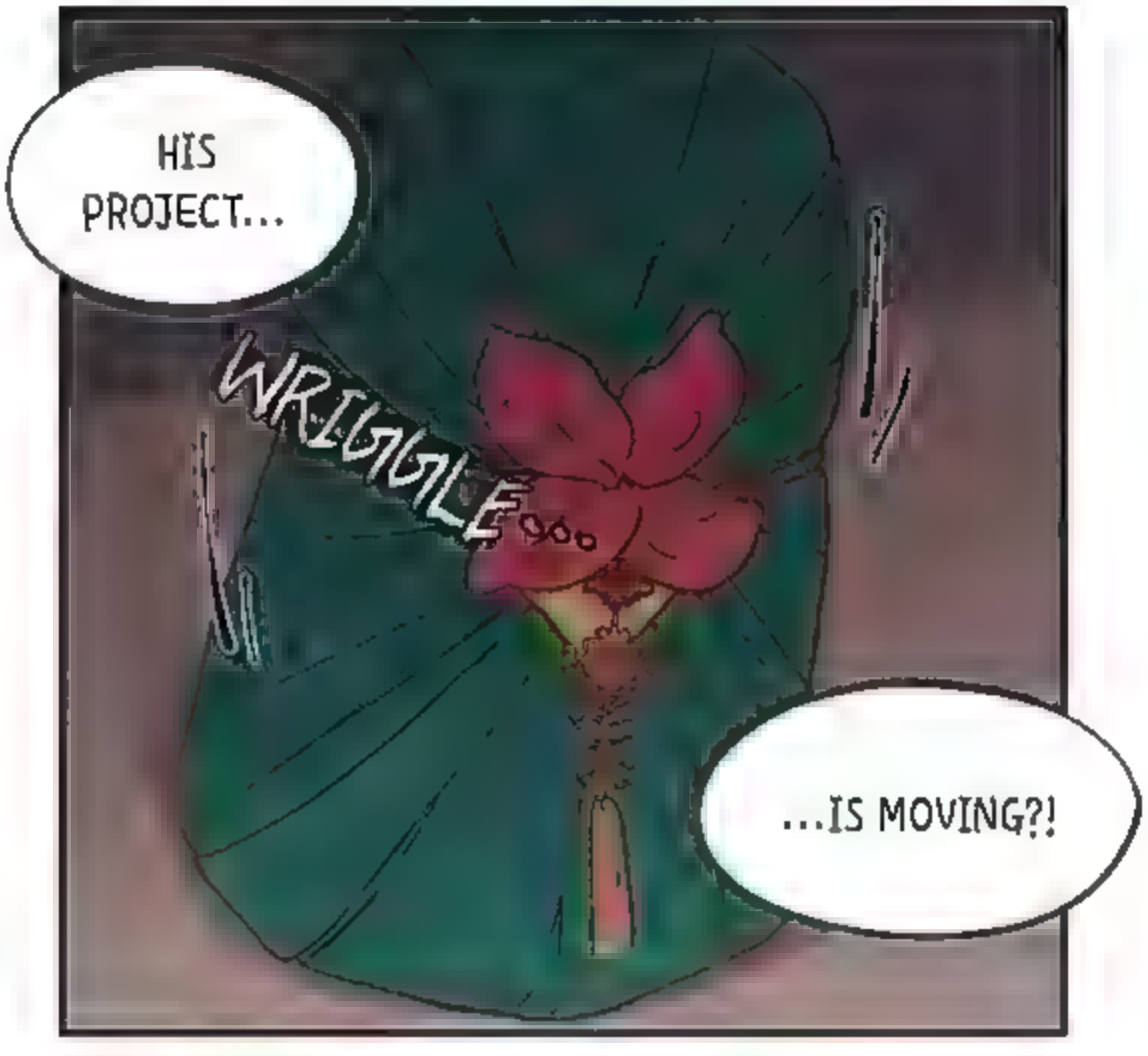
HE COULDN'T CONTROL HIS ANGER AND DESTROYED A WHOLE VILLAGE...
...WAS SUBSEQUENTLY PUNISHED BY CHEONRYONG...

...AND WAS GROUNDED NEAR MT. UNMUN.
THERE'S GONNA BE HELL TO PAY IF A GUY LIKE THAT ENDS UP BECOMING A DRAGON.

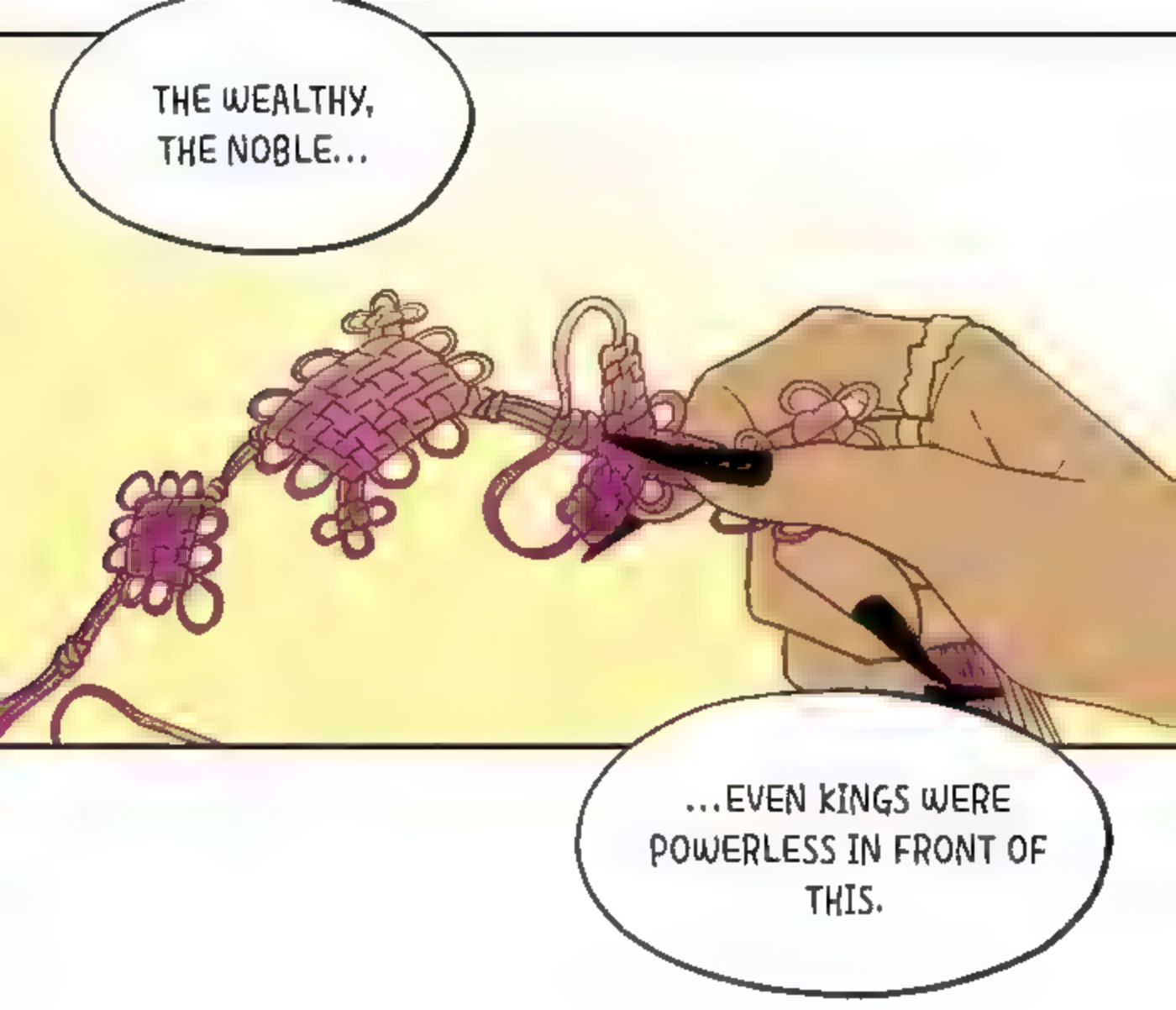
AS IF YOU'RE ANY BETTER.

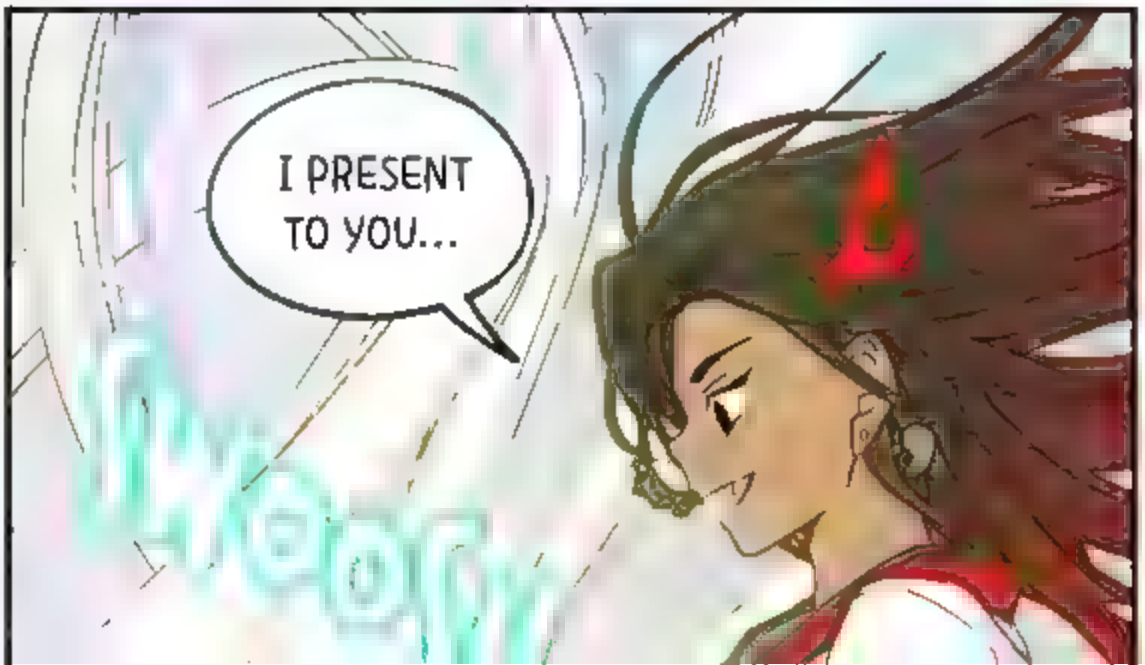

SO WHAT DID HE BRING?
I BET THAT SIMPLETON THINKS BRUTE FORCE IS THE ANSWER.
HE PROBABLY BROUGHT SOMETHING LIKE A SWORD OR A CANNON.


...NO.

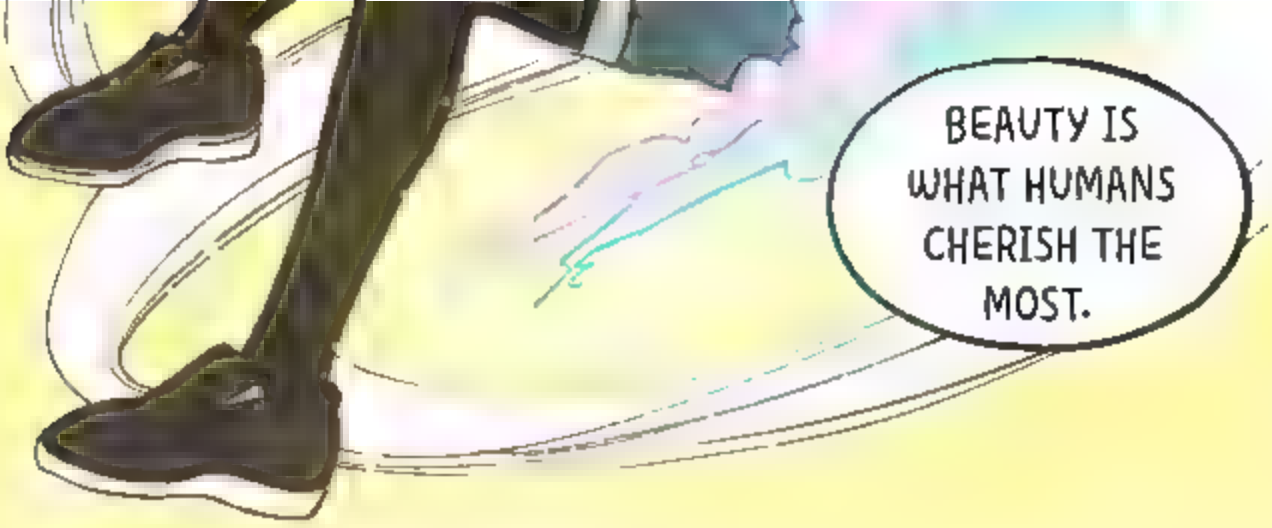

HIS PROJECT...
WRIGGLE
...IS MOVING?!

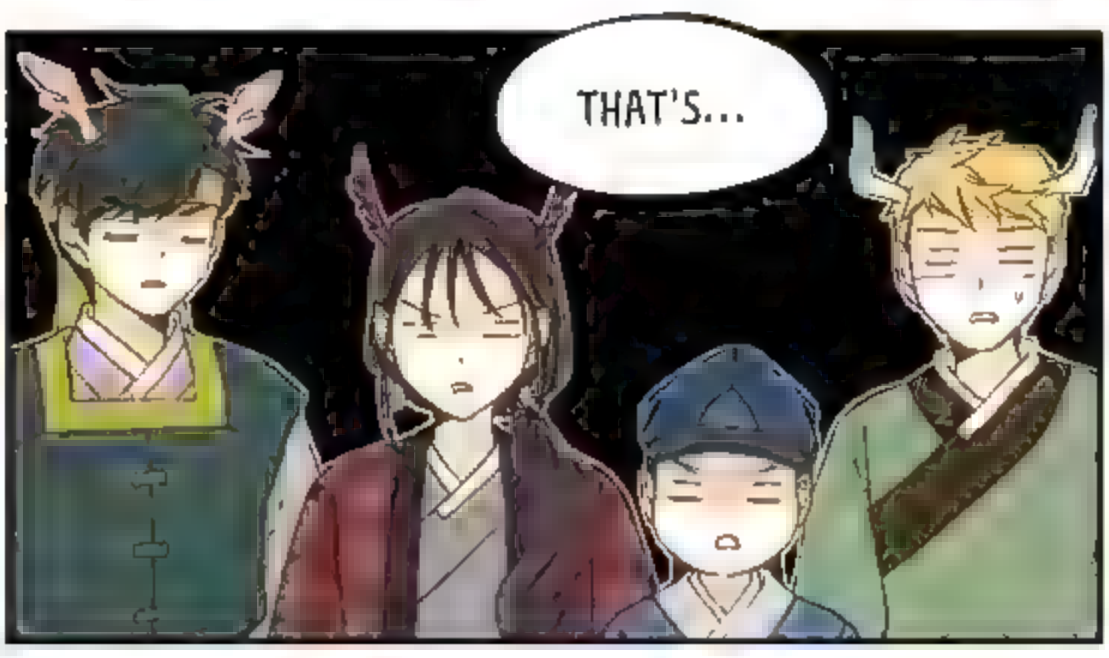
ALL HUMANS THROUGHOUT HISTORY SOUGHT THIS,
REGARDLESS OF THEIR AGE OR GENDER.
THUD


THE WEALTHY,
THE NOBLE...
...EVEN KINGS WERE POWERLESS IN FRONT OF THIS.

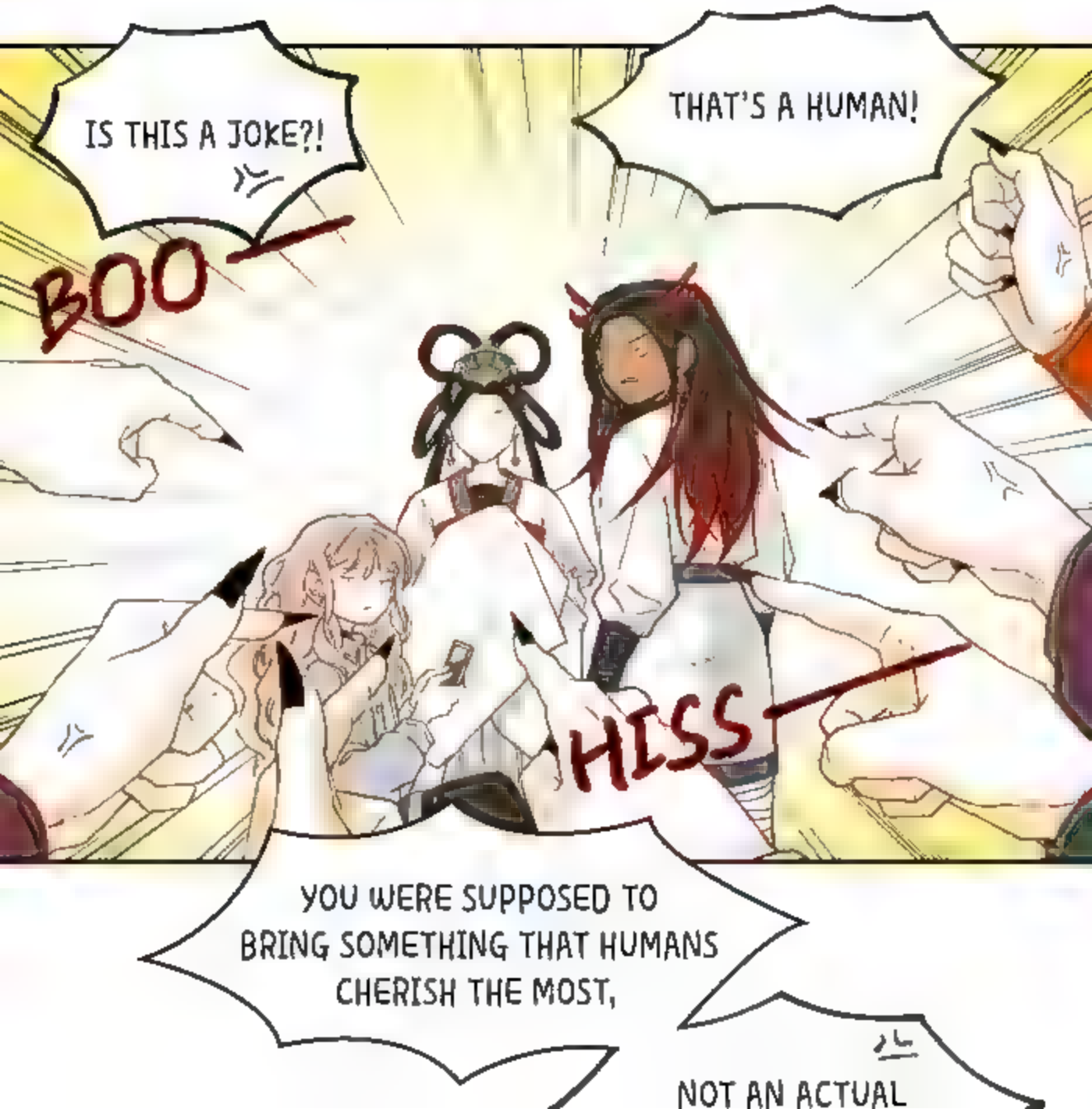

I PRESENT TO YOU...

...BEAUTY!


BEAUTY IS WHAT HUMANS CHERISH THE MOST.


THAT'S...

HEY...


IS THIS A JOKE?!
BOO
THAT'S A HUMAN!
HISS
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BRING SOMETHING THAT HUMANS CHERISH THE MOST,
NOT AN ACTUAL

HUMAN BEING!

SHUT UP!
ROAR
DO YOU KNOW HOW DISGUSTINGLY PERSISTENT HUMANS ARE IN THEIR PURSUIT OF BEAUTY?

HISTORY HAS SHOWN THAT A BEAUTIFUL PERSON IS CAPABLE OF CONTROLLING A COUNTRY'S FATE.
MY ASSISTANT IS WELL KNOWN FOR HER GOOD LOOKS-- SHE'S THE PERFECT FIT FOR THIS THEME.

HEY, YOU MADE A GOOD POINT!
THAT HUMAN LOOKS FAMILIAR...

BUT WHAT ABOUT THOSE IDIOTS WHO SINGLEHANDEDLY DESTROY THEIR KINGDOMS AND BLAME A BEAUTIFUL PERSON FOR "BEWITCHING" THEM TO DO SO?

HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT?

HEY, IT'S NOT MY JOB TO EXPLAIN WHAT GOES ON IN THOSE IDIOTS'MINDS!

YOUR WHOLE PREMISE IS A CONTRADICTION! THAT'S A ZERO ON YOUR PROJECT!

SHUT UP, YOU TWO!

NEXT!

THIS IS ONE OF THE RAREST PLANTS ON EARTH TODAY. ONLY FIVE OF THESE STILL EXIST.

ALL HUMANS, INCLUDING MY ASSISTANT, ARE OBSESSED WITH NEAR-EXTINCT WILDLIFE!

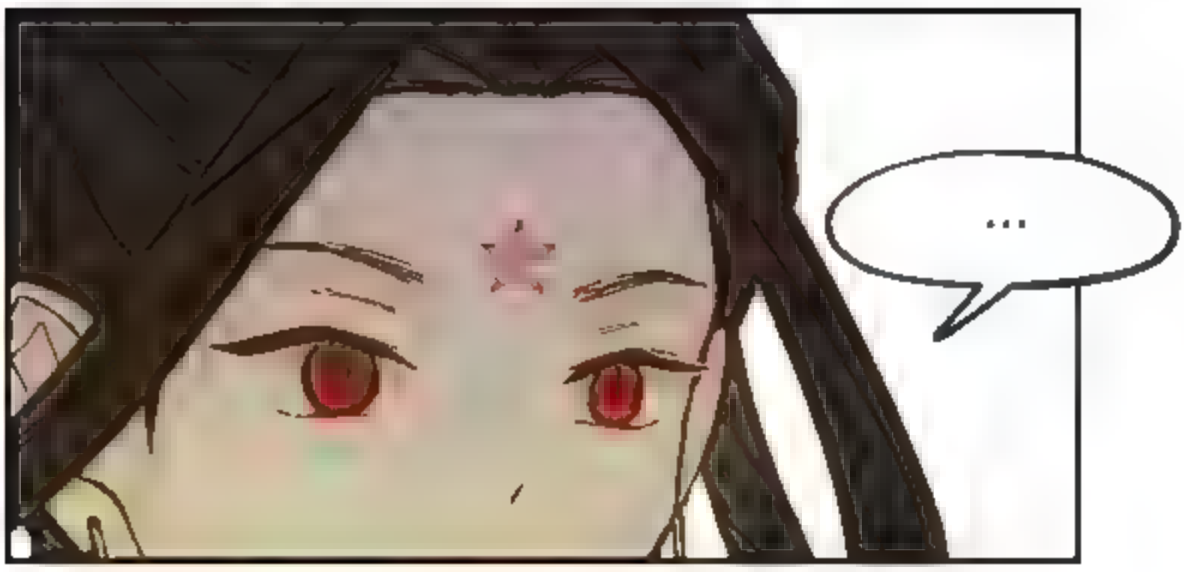
BUT MOST HUMANS DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT THEM, DO THEY?
AND SOME PEOPLE EVEN HUNT DOWN THOSE RARE CREATURES...
YEAH!
THAT'S TRUE!
YOU GET A ZERO!

EVEN THE FOUNDING EMPEROR OF THE QIN DYNASTY-- HE OF THE GREAT CONQUESTS-- THIRSTED AFTER THIS!
ETERNAL LIFE!
AND THIS 100-YEAR-OLD GINSENG REPRESENTS IMMORTALITY!

OH, NOT ALL HUMANS DIE FROM NATURAL CAUSES!
DO YOU THINK THEY ALL WANT LONG LIVES?
EXCELLENT POINT!
THAT'S RIGHT!
YOU GET A ZERO!

THERE'S NOTHING QUITE LIKE POWER AND AUTHORITY, IS THERE?
THE ROYAL DYNASTY IS LONG GONE, BUT I BROUGHT A CROWN THAT REPRESENTS--

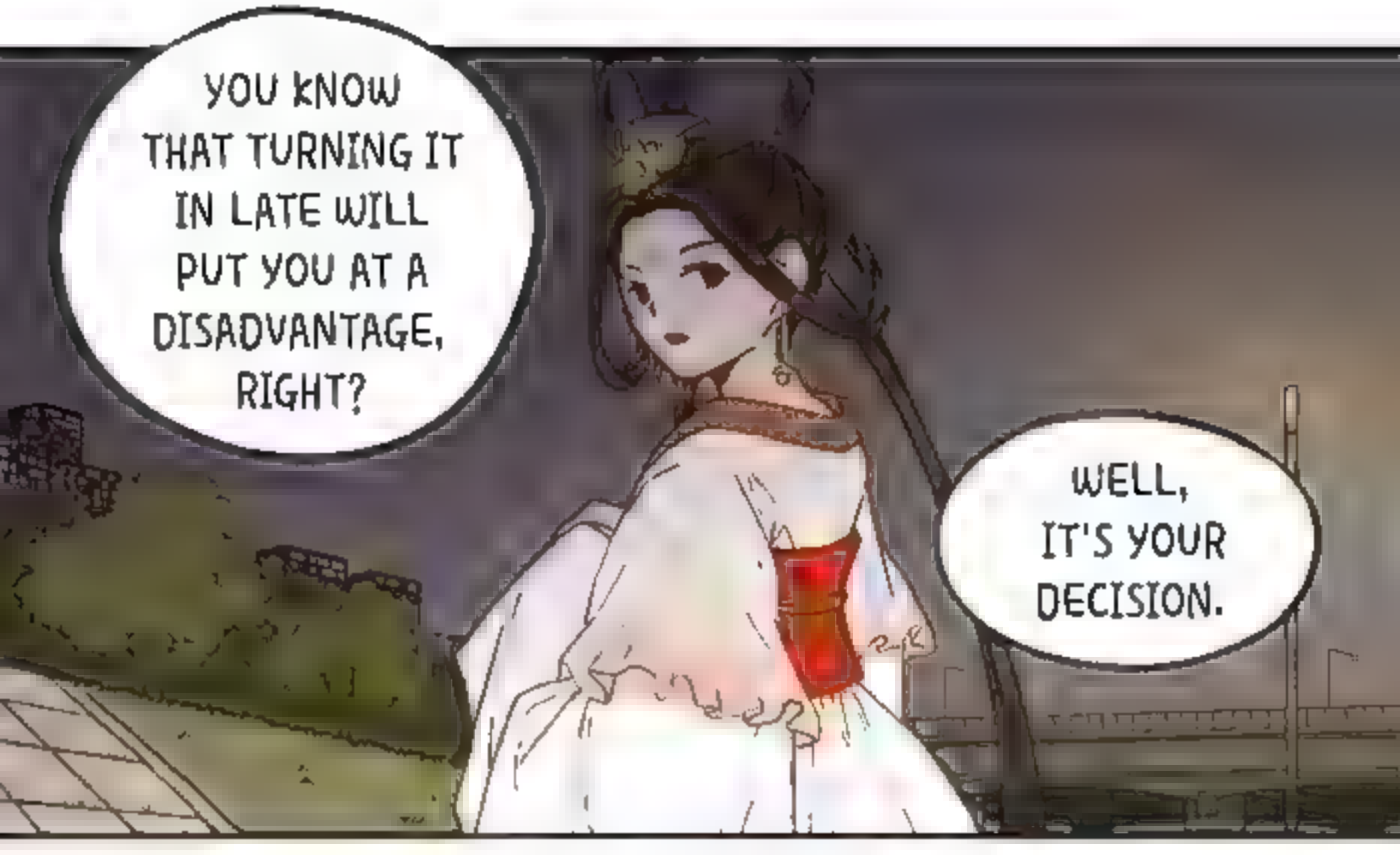
WHAT? ROYAL DYNASTY? WHAT CENTURY DO YOU LIVE IN?
I BET HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT DEMOCRACY IS!
THIS IS LIKE WATCHING A DOGFIGHT...
AND YOU GET A ZERO!


...

BARI.
YOU'VE BEEN QUIET ALL THIS TIME.

WHERE'S YOUR PROJECT?

UM, I...I... WILL...
...I'LL HAND IT IN A BIT LATER.


YOU KNOW THAT TURNING IT IN LATE WILL PUT YOU AT A DISADVANTAGE, RIGHT?
WELL, IT'S YOUR DECISION.

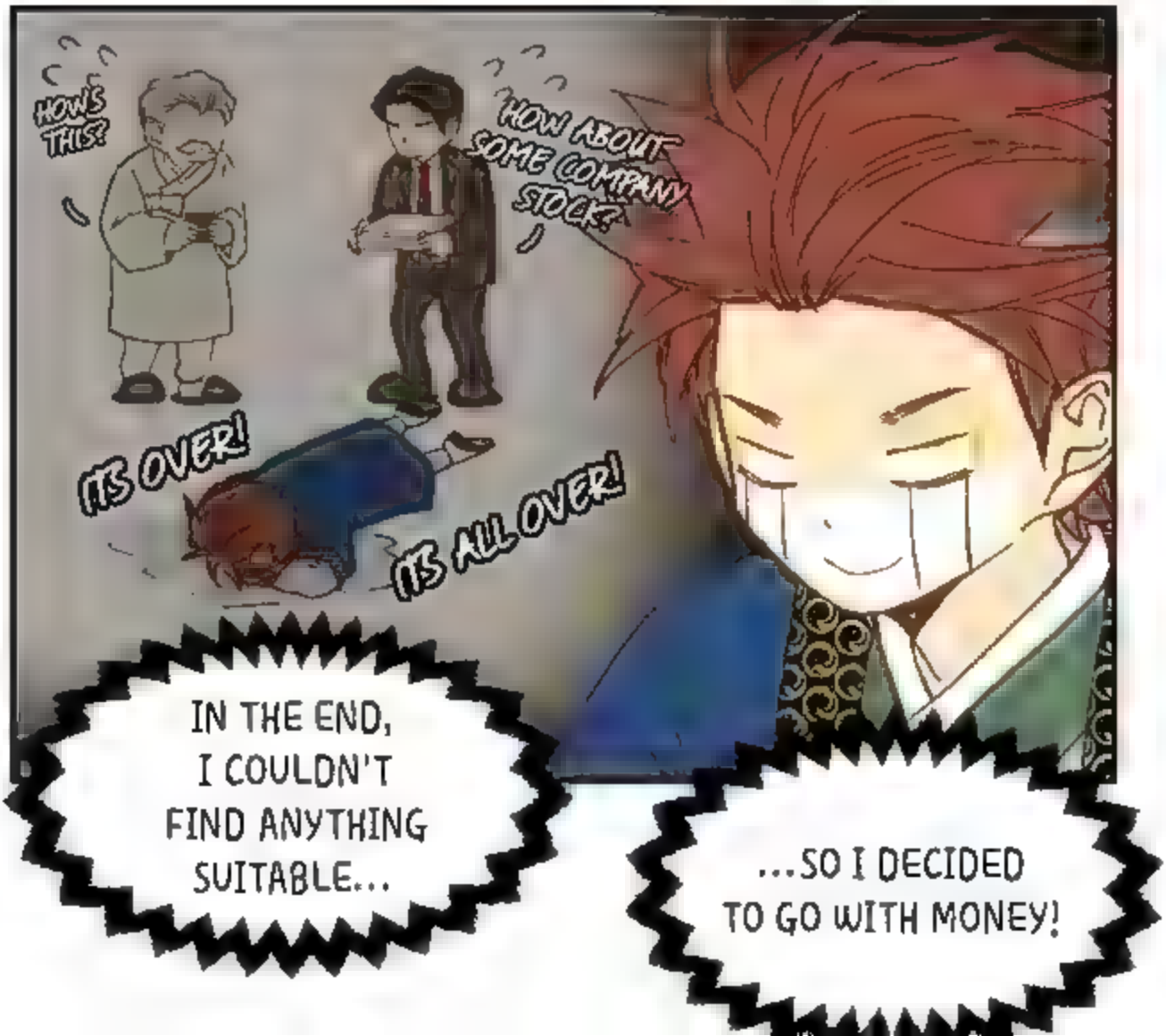
I'LL GO NEXT!
THAT IDIOT STILL HASN'T GIVEN UP...

HERE'S MY PROJECT.

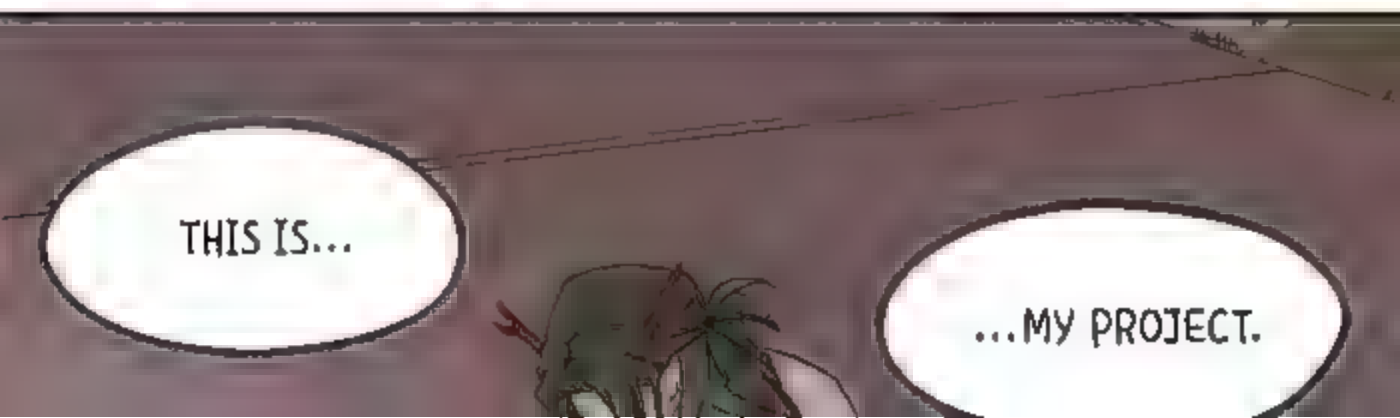
I'VE BROUGHT THE KING OF JEWELS...
...A DIAMOND!

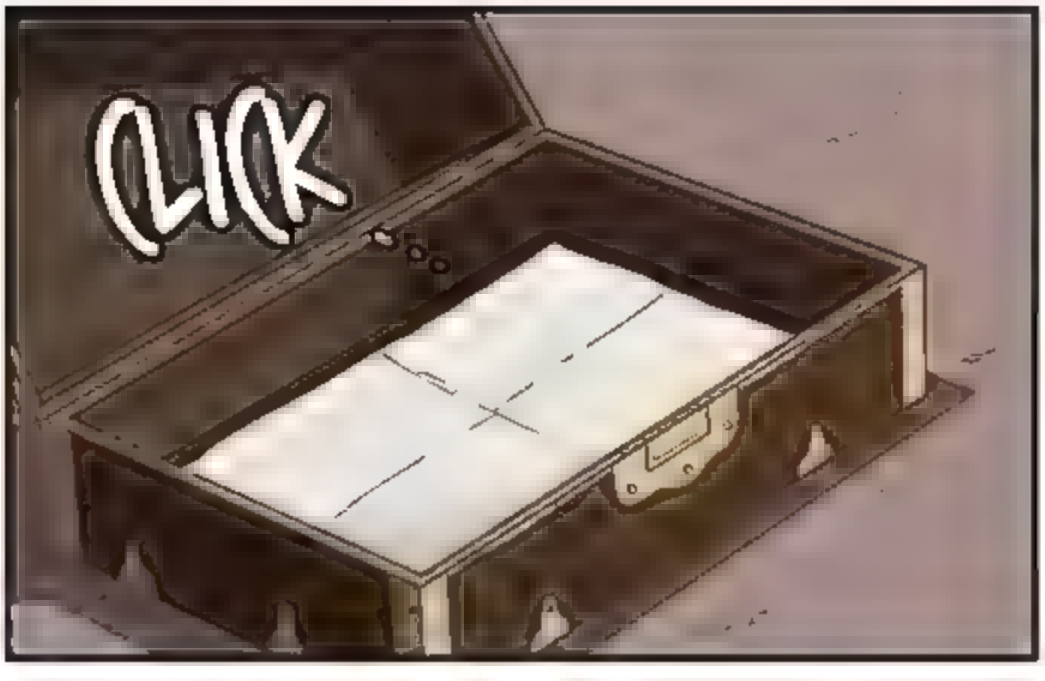
THIS IS PROBABLY THE MOST VALUABLE OBJECT THAT'S BEEN TURNED IN TODAY...
...AND ALL HUMANS DESIRE WEALTH!
HMM, NOT PARTICULARLY ORIGINAL,

AND I GET THE FEELING YOU DIDN'T PUT MUCH THOUGHT INTO IT.
FLINCH
I-I HAD SOMETHING ELSE IN MIND...
...BUT THOSE THIEVES RUINED MY PLAN...

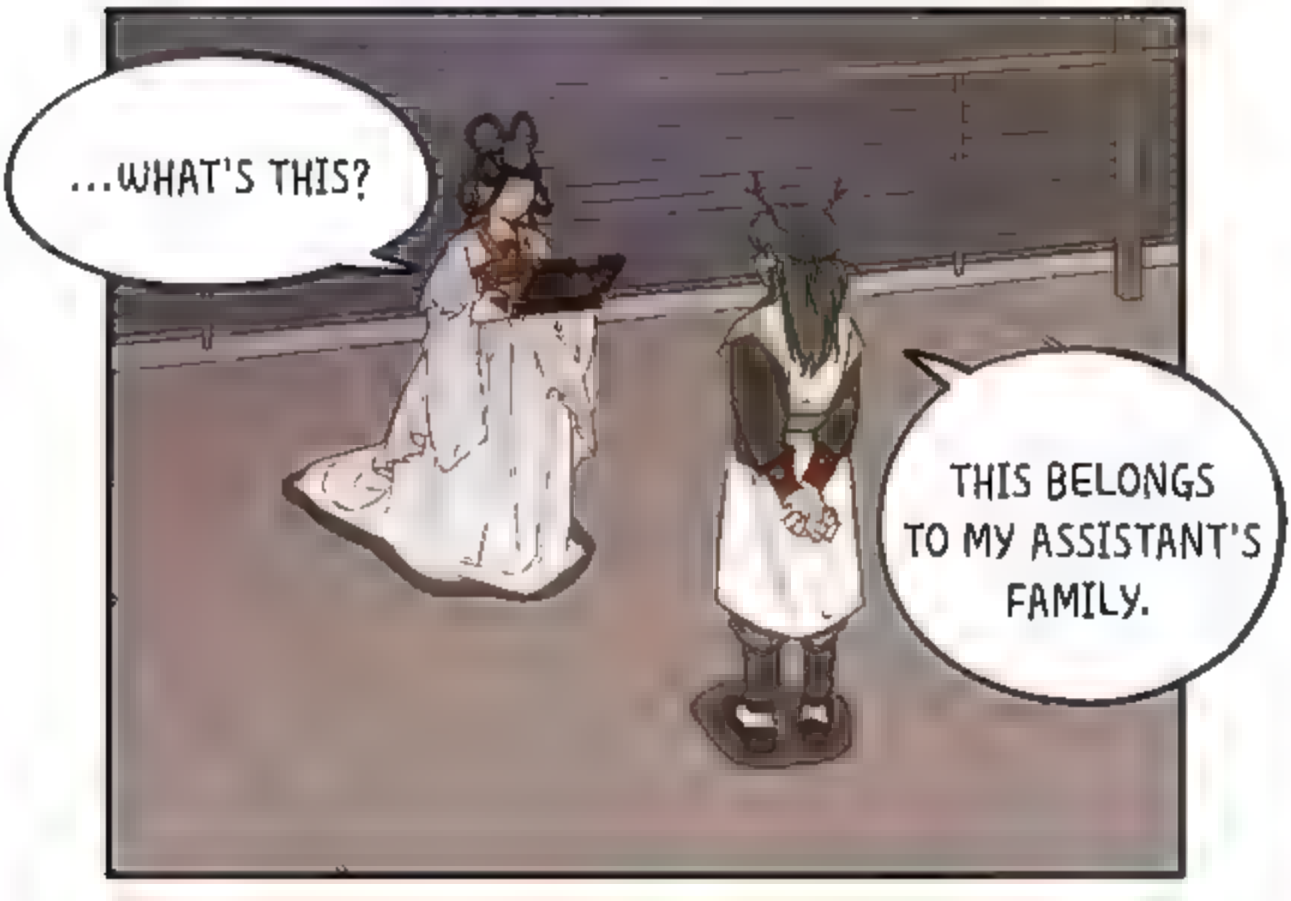

HOW'S THIS?
HOW ABOUT SOME COMPANY STOCK?
ITS OVER!
ITS ALL OVER!
IN THE END, I COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING SUITABLE...
...SO I DECIDED TO GO WITH MONEY!

HOWEVER, YOU'RE NOT ENTIRELY WRONG.
ALL RIGHT, WHO'S NEXT?
ME!

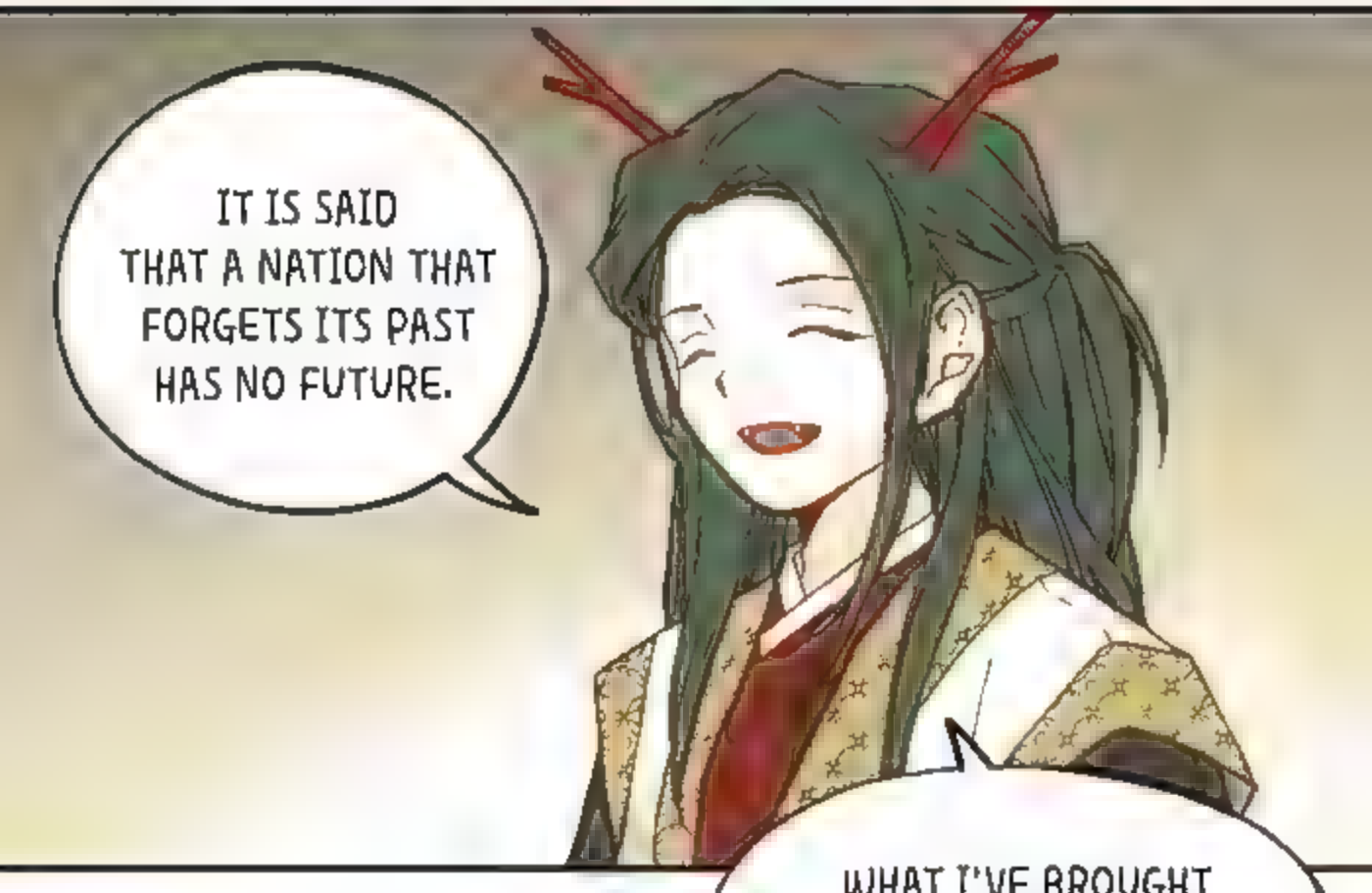

THIS IS...
...MY PROJECT.


CLICK

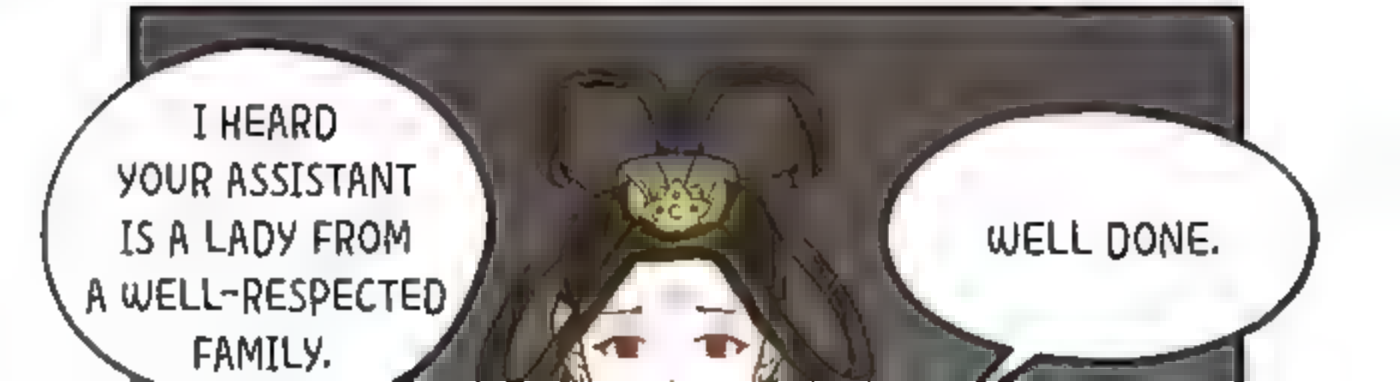
A PIECE OF PAPER...?
A SHEET OF PAPER...
WHAT'S WITH THAT PAPER?


...WHAT'S THIS?
THIS BELONGS TO MY ASSISTANT'S FAMILY.

IT'S ONLY AROUND 100 YEARS OLD...
...BUT IT'S A LETTER SIGNED BY INDEPENDENCE ACTIVISTS AT THE TIME WHO PLEDGED THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE CAUSE.



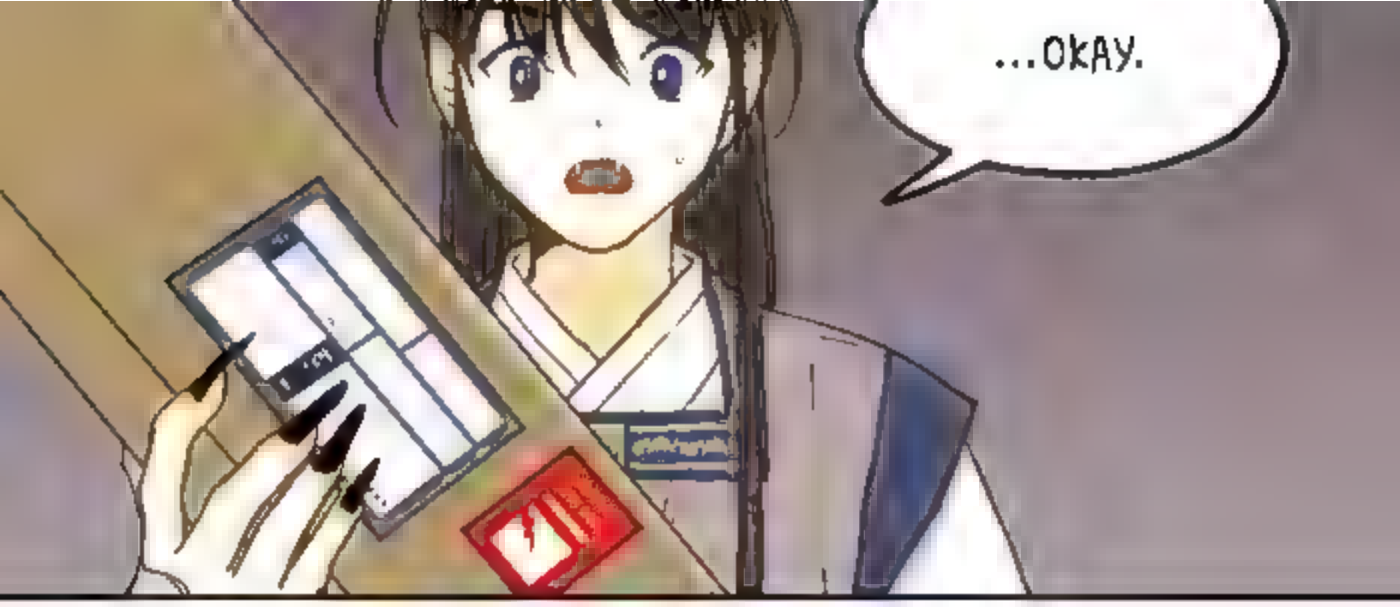
WHAT I'VE BROUGHT IS A PIECE OF HISTORY OF THIS NATION.



CLACK

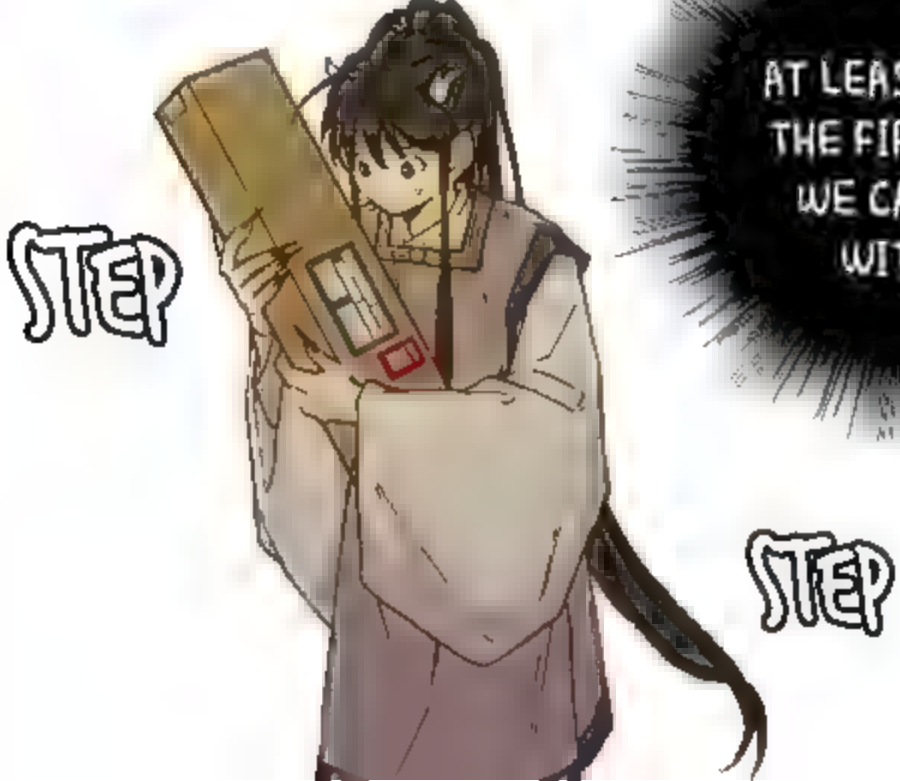
OKAY, NEXT!
YOU KNOW, THAT WAS PRETTY GOOD.
THAT WAS AWESOME!
WOW, I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU SMILE...

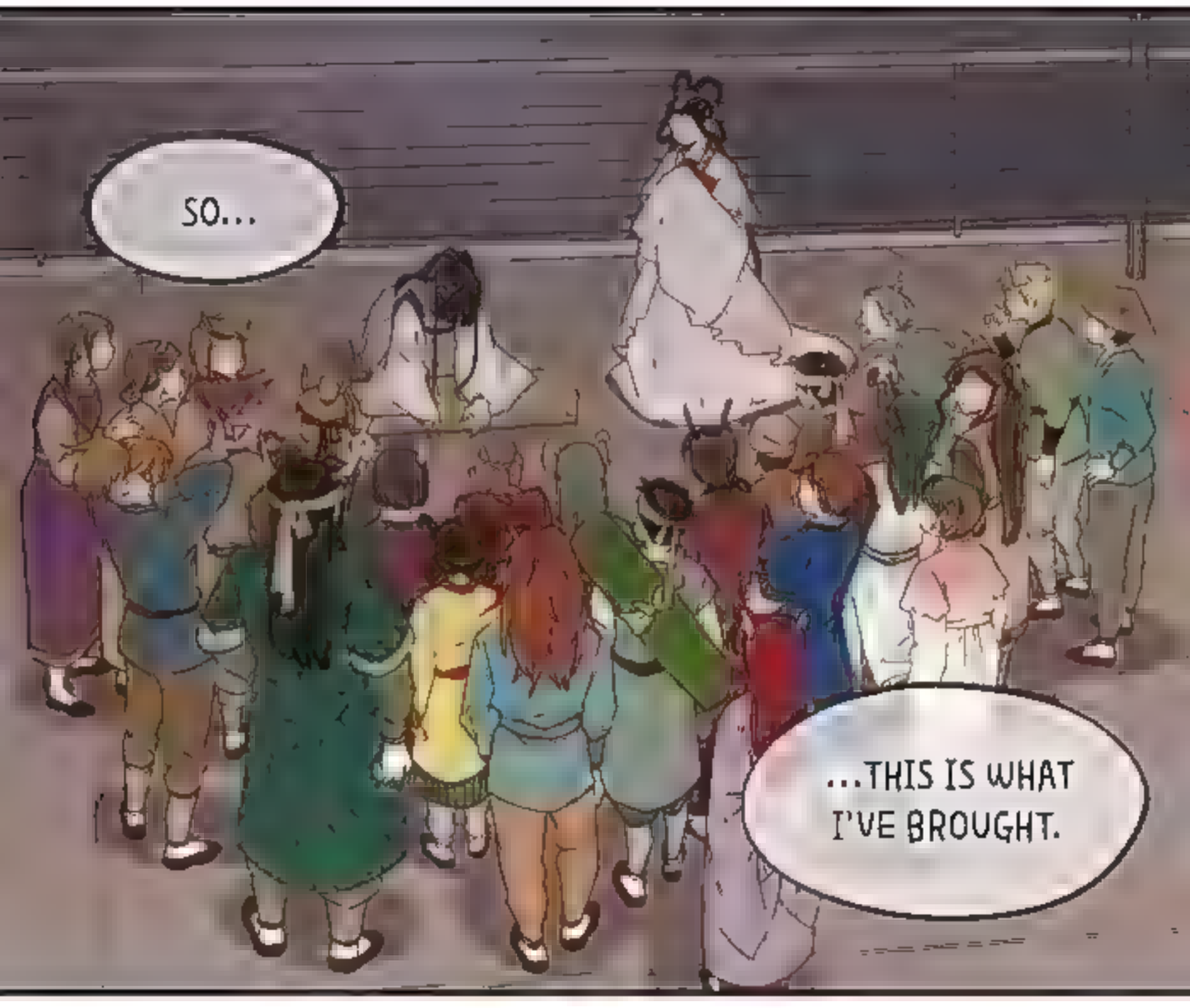
YOU'RE THE LAST ONE.
YOUR TURN, BARI.



IT'S OKAY, I'LL BE FINE WITHOUT YOUNG.

AT LEAST I HAVE THE FIRST IDEA WE CAME UP WITH...



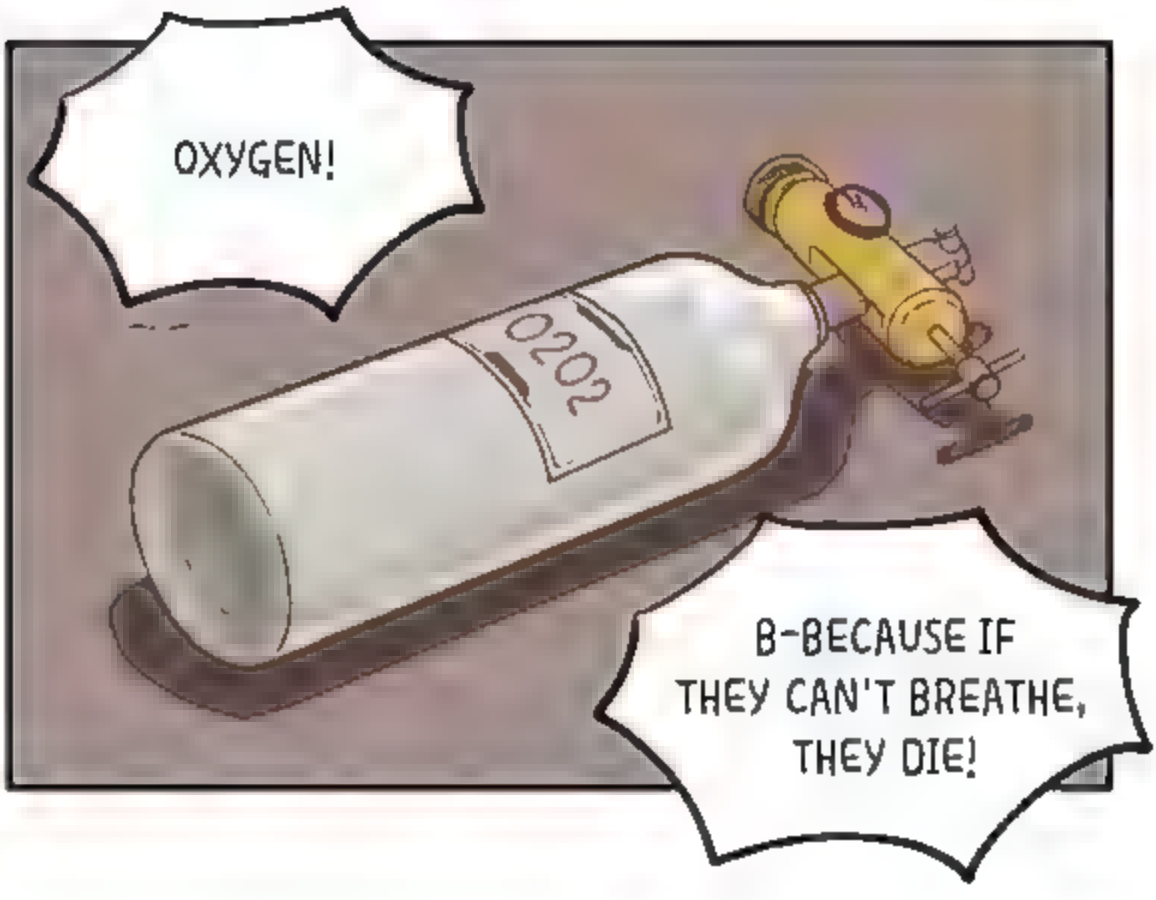

SO...
...THIS IS WHAT I'VE BROUGHT.

TAKE A LOOK!
DU
DUN
O2O2

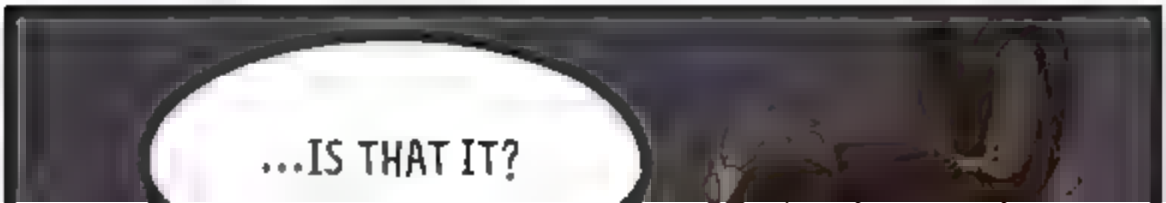
THID

WHAT'S THIS LUMP OF METAL...?
OH!
WELL, THIS IS...

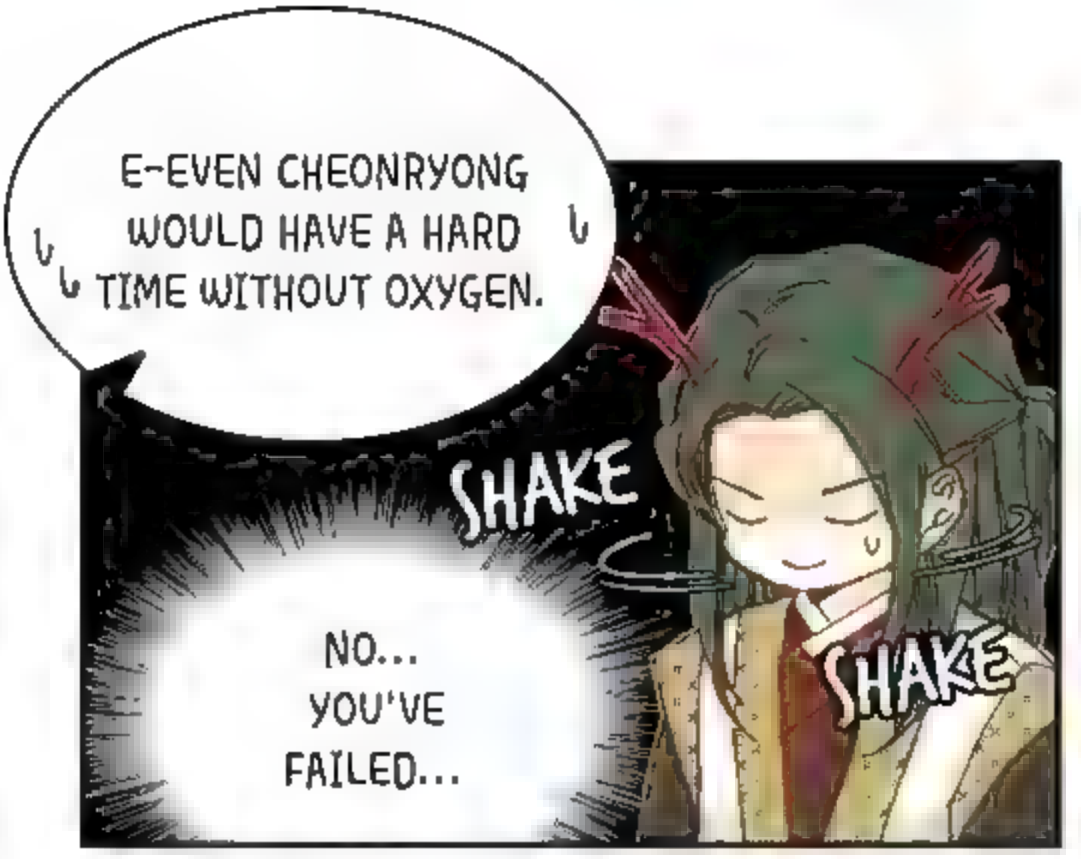
THE ANSWER DOESN'T REALLY MATTER...
...AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THE GIF OF GAB!
THIS IS THE ELEMENT...
...THE HUMANS CONSIDER THE MOST IMPORTANT.

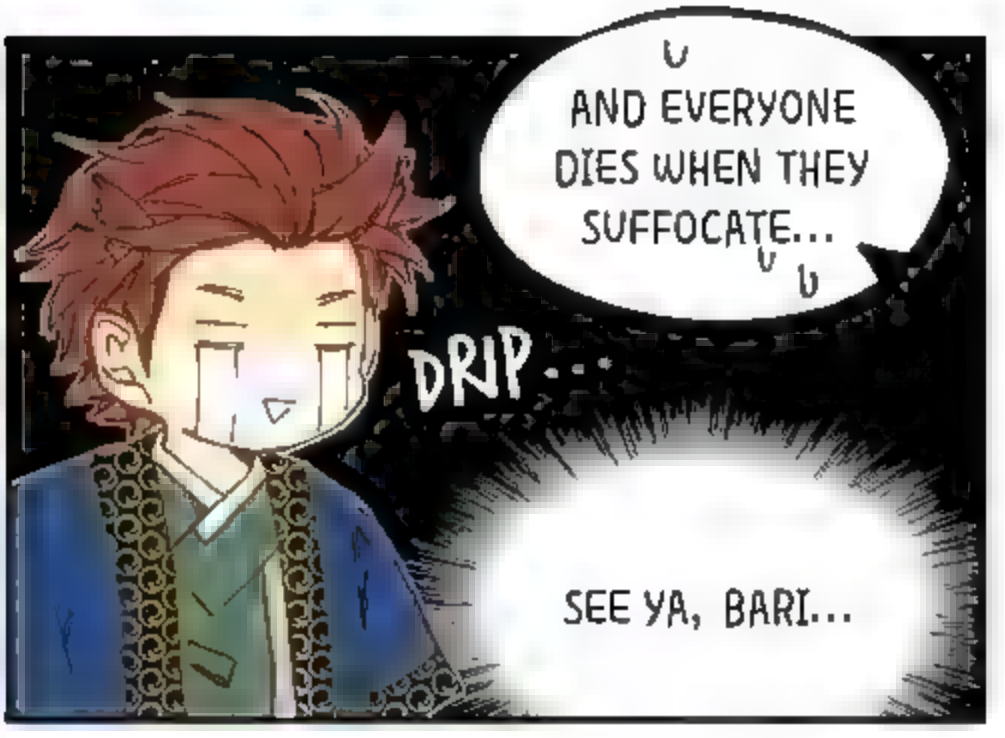

OXYGEN!
O2O2
B-BECAUSE IF THEY CAN'T BREATHE, THEY DIE!

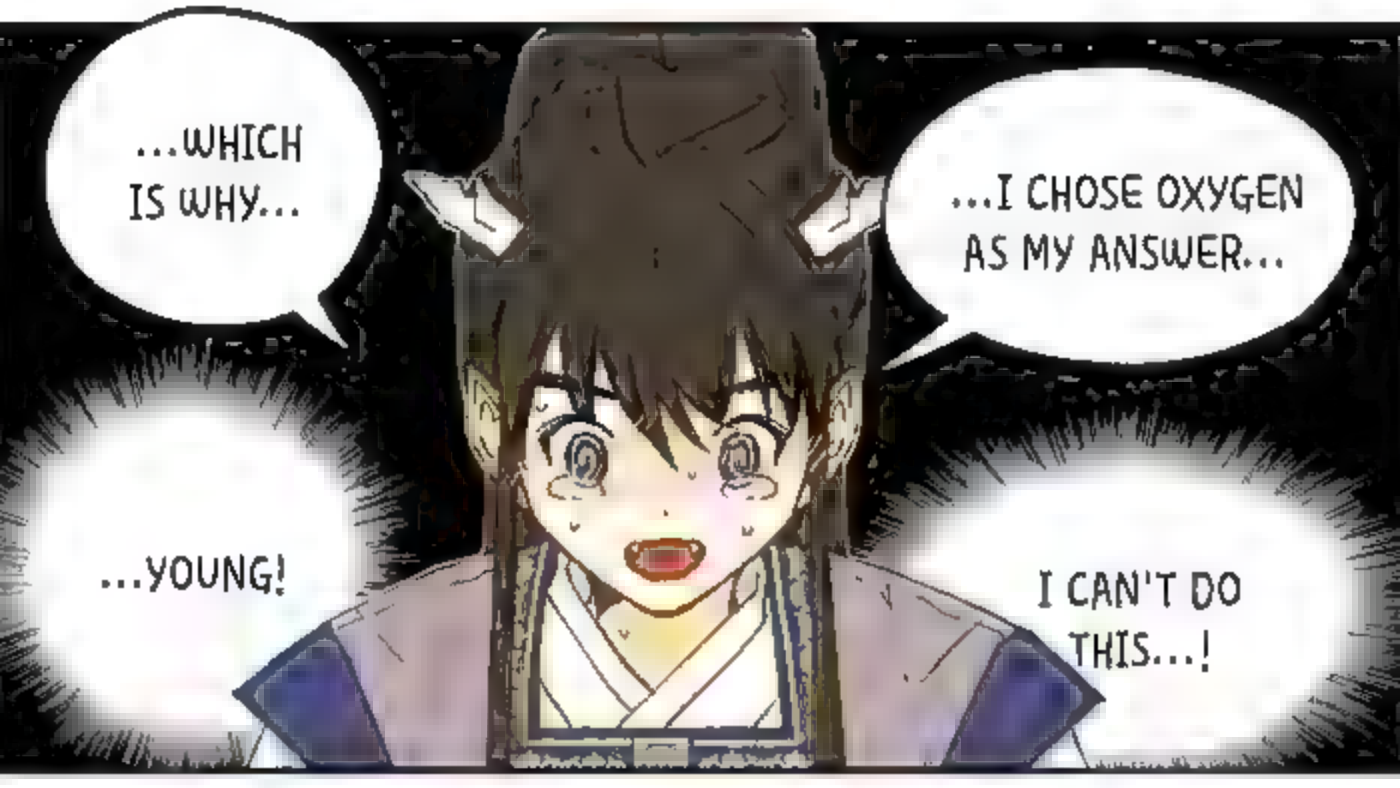
...
...
...


...IS THAT IT?

UM...
AND...
...NOT ONLY DO HUMANS NEED IT, BUT ALL THE CREATURES ON THIS PLANET MUST HAVE IT AS WELL...


E-EVEN CHEONRYONG WOULD HAVE A HARD TIME WITHOUT OXYGEN.
SHAKE
SHAKE
NO... YOU'VE FAILED...

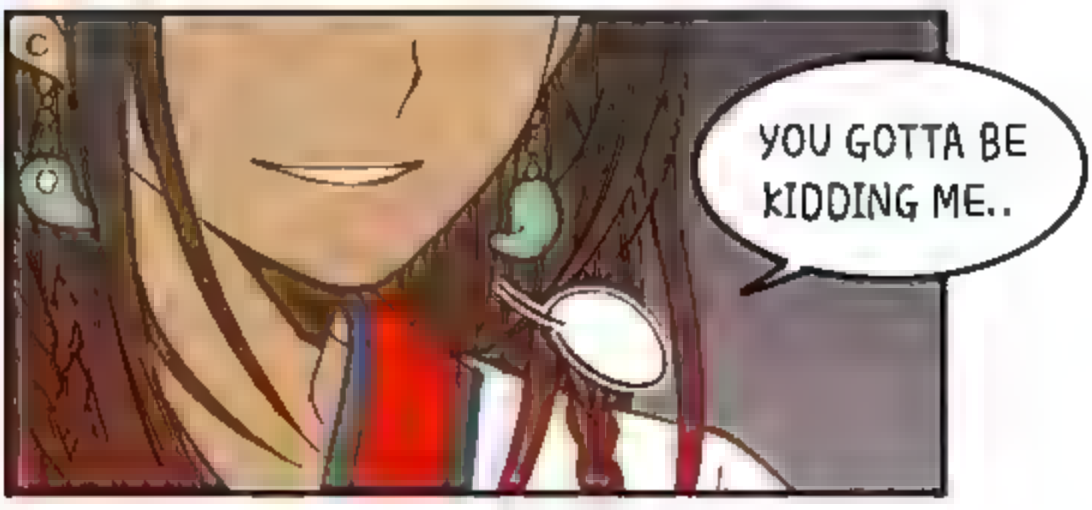

AND EVERYONE DIES WHEN THEY SUFFOCATE...
DRIP...
SEE YA, BARI...


...WHICH IS WHY...
...I CHOSE OXYGEN AS MY ANSWER...
...YOUNG!
I CAN'T DO THIS...!

YOU SAID HAVING THE GIFT OF GAB WAS KEY...

...BUT I HAD THE KNACK FOR IT.

I-I GUESS I'M NOT FIT TO BE A DRAGON...



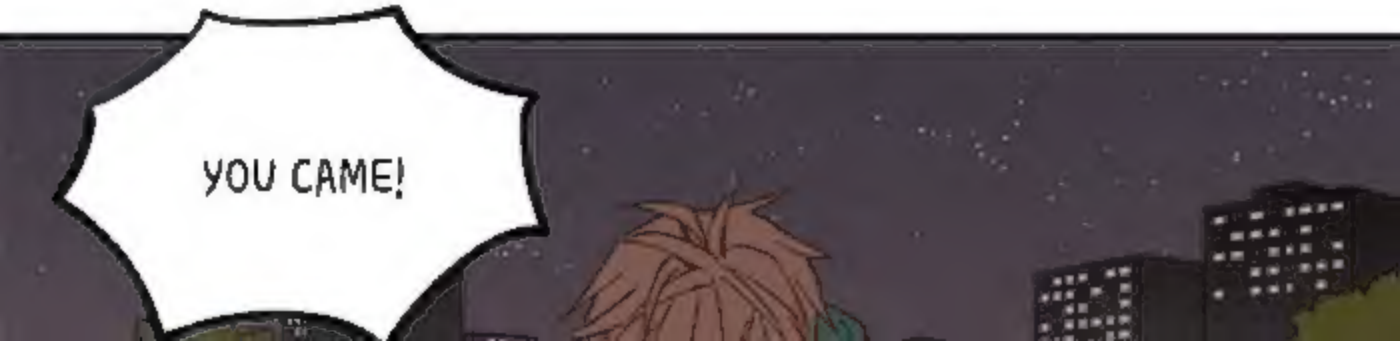
YOU'RE NOT GONNA LET BARI PASS, RIGHT?
...
BECAUSE I DON'T THINK ANY OF US HERE BOUGHT THAT.

YOU'LL BE INFORMED OF YOUR RESULTS IN THREE DAYS...
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE HIS ANSWER'S

GONNA CHANGE IN THREE DAYS.

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY--
HOLD IT!

Y-YOUNG!


YOU CAME!

I-I'M SO SORRY...
...SORRY I'M LATE.
I'M BARI'S ASSISTANT.

I'D LIKE TO TURN IN...

...ADDITIONAL MATERIAL FOR THE PROJECT.